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DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

July 1, 2008

Dear Municipal Leader:

Development decisions with profound implications for future generations are made every day in city and town halls across the Commonwealth. These decisions produce the new homes and businesses we need to house our residents and grow our economy. It is vital that we make development decisions that are best for our environment, our economy and our Commonwealth.

Therefore, today I am releasing the 2009 version of Commonwealth Capital, which has proven to be an effective program for promoting better land use choices. Commonwealth Capital explicitly endorses planning and zoning measures that are consistent with the Commonwealth's Sustainable Development Principles and encourages municipalities to implement these measures by using state funding as an incentive.

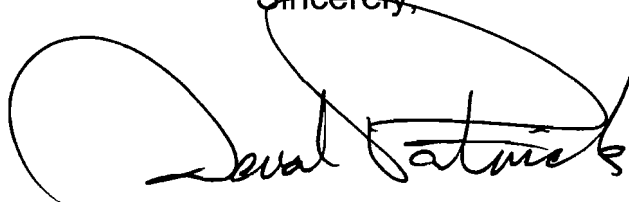
Communities that have planned for land conservation and development and enacted zoning, subdivision and other regulations consistent with the Sustainable Development Principles are more likely to receive financial assistance from the Commonwealth. Over the past four years this incentive has produced dozens of plans and hundreds of improvements to zoning and other local land use regulations.

Enhancements to the Commonwealth Capital criteria for 2009 incorporate comments received from communities as well as important initiatives of my Administration. For example, a new criterion encourages communities to implement prompt and predictable permitting practices in order to make timely decisions without compromising public health, the

environment or quality of life. Other new criteria encourage communities to promote environmental equity, plan regionally, implement innovative transportation measures and conserve energy.

Working together, we can do a better job of conserving land, energy and natural resources while expanding housing and business opportunities. At the state level, my Administration is striving to make our policies and programs consistent with the Sustainable Development Principles, and I ask municipalities to do the same. Together, we can create a more successful and sustainable Commonwealth

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Patrick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping underline.